

**MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF  
THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND  
STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL  
(BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND  
ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

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**Third Meeting  
Geneva, 5-9 December 2005**

**Meeting of Experts  
Geneva, 13-24 June 2005**

Item 5 of the agenda

**Consideration of the content, promulgation, and  
adoption of codes of conduct for scientists**

**ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS REGARDING CODES OF CONDUCT  
FOR SCIENTISTS MAJORING IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

Prepared by the Russian Federation

***I. How can we raise awareness of the BTW? provisions in the global scientific community  
and reinforce the responsibilities of scientists?***

1. It would be reasonable to raise public awareness of the BTW? goals and objectives, administrative and criminal responsibility for violations of its provisions by:

- (i) publishing relevant materials in the periodical national and international specialized literature;
- (ii) issuing by national BTW? bodies special compilations reflecting the progress made in the BTW? implementation;
- (iii) supplementing the textbooks and curricula of higher education medical, chemical and biological institutes with a lecture course on the subject;
- (iv) holding national and international workshops, symposia and conferences to consider BTW? problems, including those that are the subject of consultations among States Parties to this Convention in Geneva;
- (v) using widely electronic communication means, including the Internet.

2. In Russia, for example, a special compilation of the existing international and national instruments (including the Penal Code provisions), ensuring the BTW? implementation, and of the UN information about the progress made in the implementation of the Convention was issued. This collection was distributed among all entities of the Russian Federation.

***II. Should under-graduate and post-graduate education programs address the ethical and practical aspects of preventing the misuse of science? How can we encourage due consideration of the possible consequences of the misuse of research?***

3. It is advisable to support the initiative aimed at including such aspects in higher education programs. First of all, this should concern medical and biological higher education programs, as well as advanced training programs for professionals on especially dangerous infectious agents. The consideration of the possible consequences of the scientific misuses could be encouraged by analyzing problems in the scientific councils or in the bioethical commissions of research institutes.

***III. How can we encourage universities, industry, research bodies and government to reflect BTW? issues in their own in-house codes of practice and operational frameworks? Might we consider the introduction of guidance or instructions into existing structures that deal with the safety and ethics of individual experiments and research?***

4. The Russian Federation thinks that this problem must be solved through compliance with the national legislation that reflects the relevant obligations of a BTW? State Party. If such laws do not exist and the criminal code does not criminalize BTW? violations, the efforts to ensure the States' compliance merely by calling for the improvement of working ethics will be a futile exercise. It would be appropriate to include this issue into the list of problems that were considered by the States Parties in 2003.

***IV. How can we promote the proper use of science-based activities and knowledge and encourage appropriate oversight of such work?***

5. The proper use of science-based activities and knowledge, i.e. the use for peaceful purposes that are not prohibited under BTW? , should be encouraged through national and international law and government control over its implementation, on the one hand, and the observance of ethical and moral norms ensured by scientific councils and commissions of research and industrial bodies, on the other. The international scientific and technological cooperation is another powerful instrument to encourage the peaceful use of research.

***V. Is it necessary to provide guidance on how to deal with research that throws up unexpected or unpredictable results of relevance to the BTW? prohibitions?***

6. National guidance on such research is imperative, especially taking into account the fact that the number of unpredictable results will be steadily growing as a consequence of the integration of knowledge obtained in various fields of modern science.

***VI. How can we promote consideration among research and project funders of BTWC issues when considering proposals, e.g., whether the research could be misused in the future and what steps might help to prevent it?***

7. Research funding organizations, like any other physical or legal entities, must abide by the national legislation of their host country. The government on its part should supervise their operation in accordance with its BTW? obligations. It might be more appropriate to examine this issue in connection with the problems that were discussed by the States Parties in 2003.

***VII. To whom or to what body might an individual turn if he/she suspects that someone else's conduct is in breach of BTW? prohibitions? What safeguards might there be for such individuals? And how might any malign accusation be filtered out?***

8. All matters concerning compliance or non-compliance with the BTW? should be referred to the relevant national agency.

9. Safeguards for individuals who provide credible information on BTW? violations should be ensured in accordance with the national legislation. The allegations should be verified by competent authorities. False accusers must be held legally liable.

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